

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 5332

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR US CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR

SUBJECT: GROMYKO VISIT

REF: PARIS 4927

1. SUMMARY. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE FEBRUARY 28, QUAI STATE SECRETARY DE LIPKOWSKI SAID MAIN PURPOSE OF GROMYKO VISIT HAD BEEN TO URGE SUMMIT FINALE FOR CSCE, LOBBY FOR SOVIET POSITION ON OTHER CSCE ISSUES AND ENCOURAGE ANTI-GERMAN FRENCH POSTURE. HE SAID PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S TRIP TO THE USSR WOULD BE ROUTINE. IN CONVERSATION SAME DAY, SOVIET COUNSELOR CLAIMED GROMYKO'S TRIP WAS DESIGNED TO REPAIR STRAINED FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS AND CONFIRMED IT WAS SOVIET PRE-CONDITION FOR SUMMIT MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. DE LIPKOWSKI, WHO SAT IN ON GROMYKO'S MEETINGS WITH JOBERT AND ACCOMPANIED GROMYKO ON SIGHT-SEEING TOUR, SAID THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVED IN PARIS FULL OF SMILES OVER RESULTS OF WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE.

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GROMYKO CLAIMED IT WAS SOVIET POLICY TO ENCOURAGE

INDEPENDENT EUROPE. DE LIPKOWSKI SEEMED RATHER AMUSED THAT THE SOVIETS COULD THINK THE FRENCH MIGHT BE TAKEN IN BY SUCH A LINE.

3. GROMYKO'S MAIN PURPOSE, ACCORDING TO DE LIPKOWSKI, WAS TO PRESS THE FRENCH ON HOLDING THE THIRD STAGE OF THE CSCE AT THE SUMMIT WITH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU SIGNING THE FINAL DOCUMENTS IN HELSINKI. GROMYKO ARGUED THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO UNDERSCORE SIGNIFICANCE OF CSCE FOR DETENTE AND NEW ERA OF PEACEFUL RELATIONS IN EUROPE. DE LIPKOWSKI SAID HE REPLIED THAT HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WAS CASE AT TIME WHEN SOVIETS WERE SPENDING 40 PERCENT OF BUDGET FOR ARMS. DE LIPKOWSKI TOLD CHARGE FRENCH WERE COOL TO CSCE SUMMIT BECAUSE TO AGREE WOULD GIVE SOVIETS JUST WHAT THEY WANTED AND AT NO COST TO THEM. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PRESIDENT NIXON MIGHT AGREE TO ATTEND AS GESTURE TO SOVIETS.

4. DE LIPKOWSKI SAID SOVIETS PRESSED ON OTHER CSCE ISSUES ALONG LINES REPORTED REFTEL.

5. ON GERMANY, DE LIPKOWSKI SAID GROMYKO'S PURPOSE OF SEEKING TO DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN PARIS AND BONN WAS TRANSPARENT. GROMYKO DECLARED FRG COULDN'T BE TRUSTED. ABOVE ALL, GERMANS SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO GET HANDS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS. GROMYKO VIEWED GERMANY AS TORN BY INTERNAL DISSENT AND OPPOSING POLITICAL TENDENCIES. IN RELATION VEIN, SOVIET COUNSELOR SLUSAR TOLD POLCOUNS FEBRUARY 28 THAT FRG IS IN "UNCERTAIN, FRUSTRATED" MOOD TODAY. WEST GERMANS ARE BECOMING "RESTLESS" ABOUT REUNIFICATION WITH GDR. POLCOUNS ASKED WHAT SOVIETS ARE WORRIED ABOUT SINCE USSR HOLDS KEY TO REUNIFICATION. SLUSAR REPLIED THAT USSR WOULD "NEVER" RELINQUISH THAT KEY. SLUSAR THEN EXPLAINED THAT CURRENT DIPLOMATIC MOVES TOWARD PARIS WERE DESIGNED TO REPAIR RECENTLY STRAINED RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, THAT IT WAS "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT" TO HAVE CALM, SMOOTH RAPPORT WITH GOF TO ENCOURAGE DETENTE IN EUROPE (CSCE ETC.), PARTICULARLY WITH FRG "MISBEHAVING."

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6. WHEN ASKED ABOUT SOVIET PRESSURE TO BLOCK ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA IN BERLIN, DE LIPKOWSKI TOLD CHARGE IT WAS ESSENTIAL NOT TO LET SOVIETS GAIN SATISFACTION OF HAVING THEIR WAY. HOWEVER, AFTER DUST HAD SETTLED, ALLIES SHOULD SEEK TO PUT TIGHTER REIN ON FRG.

7. ON MIDDLE EAST ACCORDING TO DE LIPKOWSKI, GROMYKO

SOUGHT TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF ACTIVE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT, REACTING AGAINST THIS SUGGESTION OF CONCERT OF SUPER-POWERS TOLD GROMYKO CAUSTICALLY THAT SOVIETS REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON. ON THIS ISSUE, SLUSAR SAID FRENCH WERE "VERY JEALOUS" OF US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP AND ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST. DURING GROMYKO VISIT, HE SAID FRENCH CONSTANTLY TRIED TO DETERMINE SPECIFICS OF SOVIET ROLE AND WHERE US AND USSR WERE COORDINATING. FRENCH ALSO IMPLIED, INTERMITTENTLY, THAT US HAD DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE, UNILATERAL ROLE.

8. DE LIPKOWSKI SAID THAT SOVIETS PROPOSED ELABORATING ON BILATERAL CONSULTATION PROCEDURES. IN PARTICULAR THEY SUGGESTED SUPPLYING MEMORANDA TO RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS ON REGULAR BASIS. FRENCH REPLIED THAT NO FURTHER AGREEMENTS ON CONSULTATION WERE REQUIRED. WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS FOR SOVIET SIDE TO LIVE UP TO EXISTING ACCORDS.

9. WHEN CHARGE ASKED DE LIPKOWSKI WHAT PRESIDENT POMPIDOU HOPED TO ACCOMPLISH IN HIS TALKS WITH BREZHNEV, HE REPLIED THAT THE VISIT SHOULD SIMPLY BE REGARDED AS ROUTINE. AS A RESULT OF GROMYKO VISIT (DESCRIBED BY SLUSAR AS SOVIET CONDITION TO FRENCH REQUEST FOR SUMMIT), SLUSAR SAID GOF SHOULD HAVE ACCURATE VIEW OF LIMITS OF WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN MEETING WITH BREZHNEV.
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